



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
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The Honorable George Sigounas, MS, PhD  
Administrator  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Sigounas:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to urge the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to designate persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as a medically underserved population. Such individuals are often less likely to receive adequate medical care than the general population despite their increased burden of chronic health problems and shortened life expectancy. Moreover, people with IDD also experience health care disparities, such as lower rates of screening and more difficulty accessing services, compared to people without disabilities.

The AMA believes that one way to address these issues would be to designate persons with IDD as a “medically underserved population” (MUP). Currently, the federal government defines MUP according to a formula that weighs a population's lack of primary care providers, its experience with poverty and infant mortality, and its percentage of people over age 65, and then applies that result to a population within a defined geographic area. However, because persons with IDD are not limited to geographic areas, they have not fit into either the MUP designation or an “exceptional” MUP designation. Accordingly, the AMA urges you to consider initiating a rulemaking process to allow persons with IDD to be included in such designations.

Thank you for considering the AMA’s views. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Garikes, Vice President of Federal Affairs, at [margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org](mailto:margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org) or 202-789-7409.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD